

M-12-12-4

1867

Mt. Zion M.E. Church (Site) and cemetery
Big Woods Community
Private

In terms of community institutions, this site marks the historical center of the Big Woods community. A large frame building stood here that was probably built soon after purchase of the land in 1867. It served a multiplicity of purposes for the community: church, school and social hall. The cemetery is still in use and many of the founders of the black community of Big Woods are buried there. The land **was** the first site purchased for a black church in western Montgomery County, and the cemetery is one of the oldest black cemeteries still in use in the county.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 12-42-4
Mag1 #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mt. Zion M.E. Church (site) and cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Route 109

CITY, TOWN

Big Woods

☒ VICINITY OF Poolesville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

NO

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED

☐ YES UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Phillip Spencer et. al., Trustees Mt. Zion

Telephone #: 301-349-5632

STREET & NUMBER

Church

c/o Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Big Woods Road

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20753

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: EBP 4

Folio #: 419

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:12-42-4

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small cemetery was, and still is, the burying ground for many members of the Big Woods community. It consists of one care. Though now located far from main roads, the site was originally near the heart of the community since the old road from Beallsville Road to Dickerson passed nearby. There are a score of simple gravestones, some modern and some old, which are in good condition. The grounds are well maintained. Many of the men and women whose houses are described in this survey were buried at this site.

See photographs of the cemetery for views of the cemetery.

A large frame building stood on this site nearby the cemetery. Nothing remains today above ground but according to oral informant, Florence Hallman, this building was the Mt. Zion M.E. Church. It also served as a social gathering place for the community. And replaced by a new brick church on the Beallsville Road near the site of the Sellman School.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Black History	
				Local History	

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1867

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This site of the cemetery and church is one of the first to have been purchased by blacks after emancipation in the Big Woods community. According to the deed EBP 4/419 this tract of one acre was purchased by Phillip Spencer and the trustees of the Mt. Zion M.E. Church in 1867. The property was purchased from James O. and Annie E. Trundle who were prominent white landowners in the area. Soon after buying the land the church was probably built. According to Florence Hallman, the building was "an old hall" and served a multiplicity of purposes. It was a lodge hall and also served social occasions such as community dances. She also remembers that it was used as a schoolhouse at one time, in addition to having been used on Sundays for church services. In Hopkins' Atlas of Montgomery County of 1879, a schoolhouse is shown on this site a short distance north of the residence of Rev. E. Awkard. This was probably the building described by Florence Hallman. Thus in terms of community institutions, this site marks the historical center of the Big Woods community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Deed EBP 4/419
- 1) Land records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.
 - 2) Oral interviews (not taped) with Florence Hallman, August-September 1978, Big Woods.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George McDaniel, Surveyor

Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

7/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MEDLEY DIST.

No 3.

Mont Co.

Scale 1 1/4 Inches to a Mile

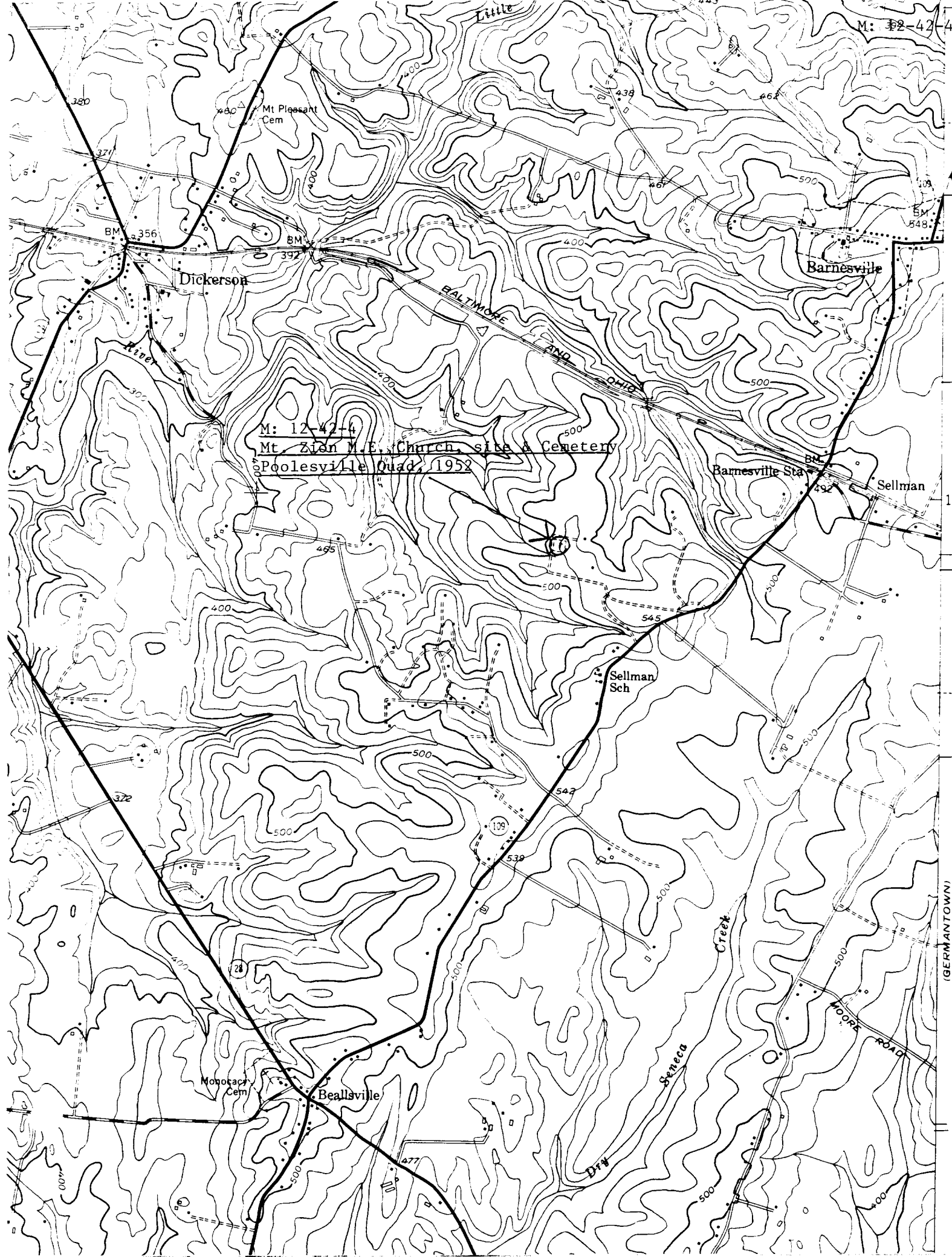


Note: The Figures on the Roads represent the Distance in Rods from junctions.

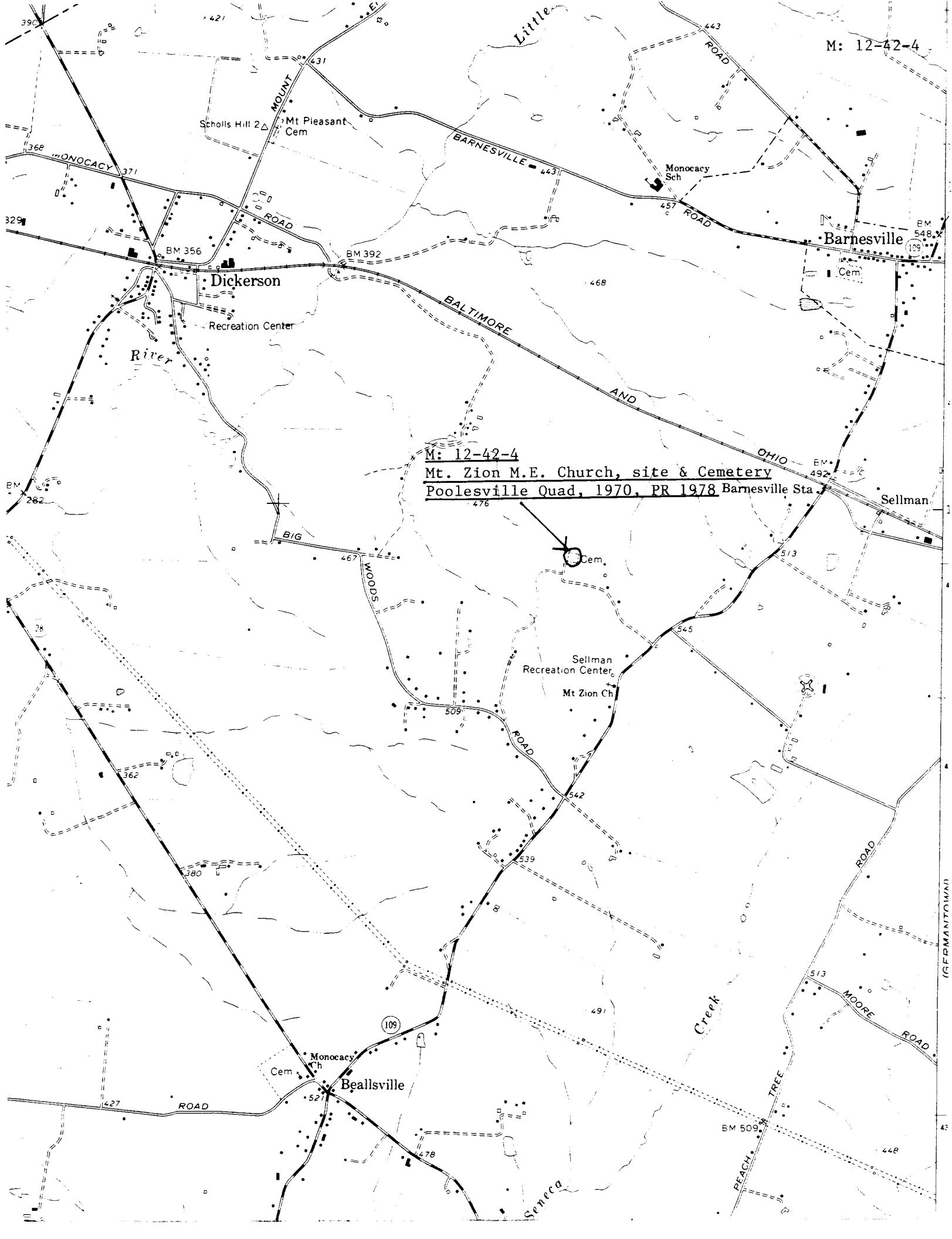


M: 12-42-4

COMES 2.1 MI
HYATTSTOWN 5.5 MI



(GERMANTOWN)



M: 12-42-4

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Mt. Zion M.E. Church, site & Cemetery

Poolesville Quad, 1970, PR 1978 Barnesville Sta.

Cem.

Sellman
Recreation Center
Mt Zion Ch

Beallsville

Barnesville

Dickerson

River

Little

Creek

PEACH

TREE

MOORE

ROAD

ROAD

BALTIMORE

AND

OHIO

BIG

WOODS

ROAD

ROAD

109

(GERMANTOWN)



M:2-42-4

173-# 8